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**INFORMATION REPORT**

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 23 JAN 51

SUBJECT SED Evaluation of the Grotewohl Letter

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1. The newspapers and radio stations of the DDR have been instructed to publish nothing about the effects of the Grotewohl letter to Chancellor Adenauer except what they receive directly from the Office of Information or from the press office of the SED. This prohibition was issued after a discussion of the Grotewohl letter by the Politburo with Ambassador Semenov and two other Russian officials 18 December at SED headquarters.
2. At the above meeting a report was presented on the effect of the Grotewohl letter in West Germany and the other western nations. The report treated the effect on the West German government, on industrial circles, on the church, on the trade unions, on the universities, on the press, and on various special groups such as former Wehrmacht officers and former members of the NSDAP.
3. The report stated that the Grotewohl letter is the first successful SED attempt to gain support in West Germany after the failures of the National Front and the Peace Movement. It was estimated that 50% of the West German press has accepted the principle of a West German - East German conference. The pressure of public opinion is against Chancellor Adenauer's rejection of the letter. The SED is amazed at the speed of the West German reaction, for it had supposed that further steps would be necessary to arouse the desired support. The SED now believes that the absolute opponents of East-West talks are in a small minority.
4. From this report the Politburo drew the conclusion that its present course is correct and that it must continue its propaganda for a rapprochement while at the same time increasing the tempo of bolshevization of the DDR.
5. The Russian viewpoint was stated as follows: Everything must be done to prevent the remilitarization of West Germany and its integration into the Atlantic Pact. France and Great Britain have already shown some reluctance and the USSR must do everything in its power to strengthen this resistance. The Four-Power Conference will offer an opportunity to influence these nations.
6. [REDACTED] the Russian timetable for this program calls for increasing the propaganda pressure through the winter. It is expected that West Germany will be ready to succumb to this pressure by the spring of 1951.

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